

**WHAT IS CLAIMED:**

1. A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:
  - a pump portion;
  - an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and
  - an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length.
2. The adapter sleeve of claim 1 including a first end having a coupling in order to attach the adapter sleeve to a ventricular apex of a heart.
3. The adapter sleeve of claim 2 wherein the coupling attaches to a sewing ring that is attached to the ventricular apex.
4. The adapter sleeve of claim 1 wherein the adapter sleeve is formed of a smooth cylinder of titanium.
5. The adapter sleeve of claim 1 including cylindrical grooves forming perforations on the surface of the sleeve wherein the sleeve may be separated along said grooves.
6. The adapter sleeve of claim 5 wherein the sleeve is formed of ceramic.
7. The adapter sleeve of claim 1 further including a gripping member for attaching the extended inflow tube to the ventricular apex.
8. The ventricular assist device claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a bent end.
9. The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an

extendable end.

10. The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a rotatable end.

11. The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an inner sleeve that is rotatably and slidably mounted therein.

12. A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length including a first end having a coupling in order to attach the adapter sleeve to a sewing ring that is attached to the ventricular apex of a heart and the adapter sleeve is formed of a smooth cylinder of titanium.

13. The ventricular assist device of claim 12 wherein the inflow tube includes an inner sleeve that is rotatably and slidably mounted therein.